



Wyoming Economic Update

October 21, 2016

Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in Wyoming increased by 300 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Wyoming Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Wyoming declined by 0.2 percentage point to 5.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 538 in September to 16,040, while the labor force grew by 903 to 300,205. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 33 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Wyoming. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Wyoming stood at 4.3 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 7.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in December 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 9.4 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 2.7 percent in March 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in May 1979 when the unemployment rate was 2.5 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Wyoming Payroll Employment

Wyoming nonfarm payrolls increased by 300 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 700. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Wyoming declined by 9,200, or 3.18 percent. Wyoming nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 2 of the past 12 months.

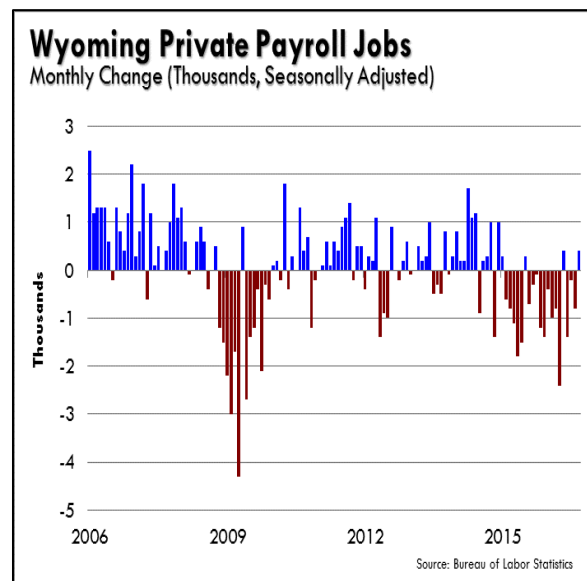
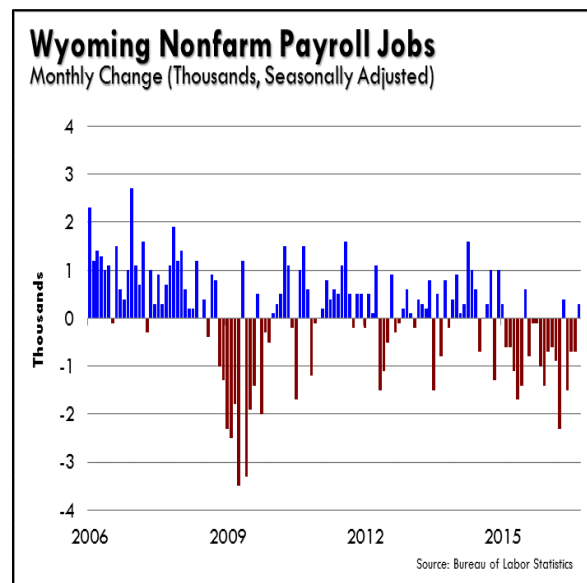
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 156,000 jobs in September, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending September 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Wyoming ranks 51st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Wyoming private-sector payrolls increased by 400, or 0.19 percent. Private-sector payrolls declined by 800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Wyoming declined by 8,900, or 4.09 percent. Wyoming private-sector payroll employment has increased in 2 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 167,000 jobs in September, or 0.14 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,302,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.91 percent. Wyoming ranks 51st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

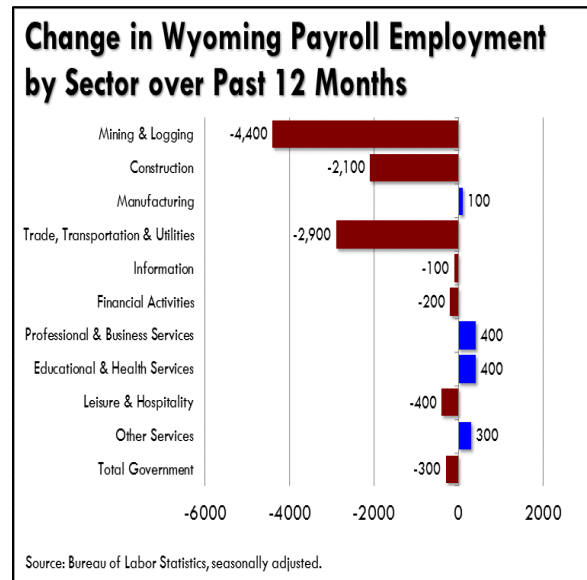
During September, total government payroll employment in Wyoming declined by 100, or 0.14 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment was unchanged, while local government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.21 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.42 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 300, or 1.91 percent. Local government payroll employment was unchanged.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Professional & Business Services (+600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-900) and Educational & Health Services (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+400) and Educational & Health Services (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-4,400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-2,900).

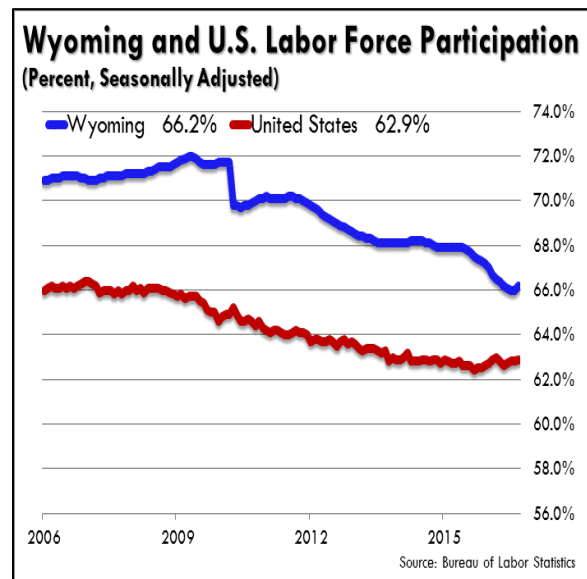


Other Wyoming Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Wyoming rose to 66.2 percent in September from 66.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 14 have a higher labor force participation rate than Wyoming. The labor force participation rate in Wyoming is unchanged from a year earlier.

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Wyoming was 72.0 percent in May 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Wyoming occurred in January 1983 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.7 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.0 percent in August 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in January 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.4 percent.

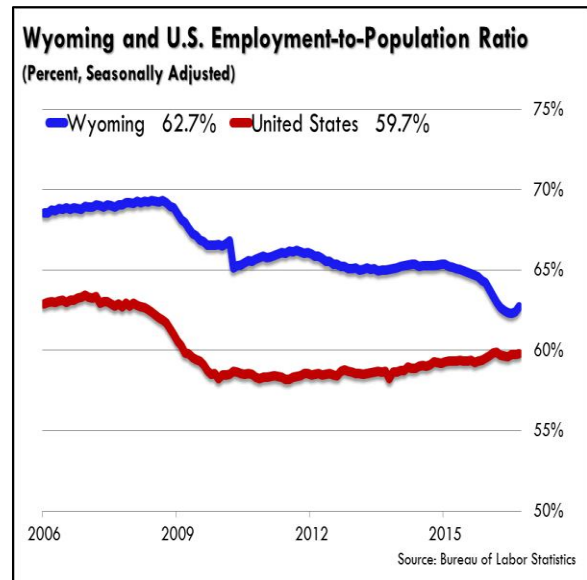


The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in September, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Wyoming civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.7 percent in September from 62.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the

District of Columbia, 13 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Wyoming. The employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming is 2.0 percentage points lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming was 69.3 percent in September 2008. This also represents the series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 62.3 percent in July 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 61.7 percent.



The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.8 percent in September. That rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for October is scheduled for release on November 18, 2016. The national employment situation report for October will be released on Friday, November 4, 2016.